

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 291200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7845

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2441

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK UNIVERSITY

REF: JERUSALEM 272

1. DR. GEORGE WISE (AMERICAN CITIZEN), FORMER LONG- TIME PRESIDENT OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY AND NOW ITS CHANCELLOR, GAVE CHARGE RUNDOWN ON WEST BANK UNIVERSITY MARCH 29. WISE INDICATED HE HAD BEEN ORIGINATOR OR ONE OF ORIGNATORS OF IDEA ON ISRAELI SIDE. HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH EDUCATION MINISTER YIGAL ALLON AND WITH ARABS INTERESTED IN PROJDC. WISE HAS BEEN CONDUCTING DETAILED TALKS OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WITH ISRAELIS AND ARABS. DURING RECENT VISIT TO U. S. OF SEVERAL MONTHS DURATION, HE DISCUSSED PROJECT WITH A NUMBER OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS INTERESTED IN MID EASTERN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING SOME ARAB PROFESSORS. HE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO VISIT ARAB CAPITALS, ESPECIALLY BEIRUT, TO PROMOTE NEW UNIVERSITY BUT HAS NOW DROPPED THIS IDEA FOR PRESENT.

2. WISE INDICATES THERE IS SOME DIFFERENCE IN POINT OF VIEW BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND WEST BANK ARABS. ISRAELIS NATURALLY WANT TO PROMOTE UNIVERSITY, WOULD NO DOUBT LIKE TO CONTROL IT, WOULD BE WILLING TO FURNISH MONEY AND WOULD LIKE TO GAIN CREDIT IN REST OF WORLD FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN OCCUPIED AREA. ARABS, HOWEVER, WANT UNIVERSITY LINKED WITH AMMAN, NOT WITH ISRAEL, AND FEEL THAT THEIR ONLY CHANCE OF GETTING BLESSING OF KING HUSSEIN

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AND OTHER ARAB SUPORT IS TO REMAIN FREE OF ISRAELI INFLUENCE.
WISE SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF LATTER POINT OF VIEW ALTHOUGH IT IS
CLEAR HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE EVENTUALLY TO PLAY SOME ROLE IN NEW
UNIVERSITY.

3. WISE SAID PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NOW GOING ABOUT ESTABLISHING
ADVISORY GROUP OF SOME ONE HUNDRED WEST BANK NOTABLES INCLUDING
MAYORS, LOCAL COUNCILMEN, ETC. FROM THIS ONE HUNDRED A BOARD
OF TRUSTEES OF ABOUT FIFTEEN WILL BE CHOSEN, WITH MAYOR JASBARI
OF HEBRON AS PROBABLE CHAIRMAN.

4. PREPARATORY GROUP SAYS IT WILL SHORTLY SEND MISSION TO AMMAN
AND ARAB LEAGUE IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR PROJECT. IF THIS
IS GOTTEN, THEY FEEL THERE WILL BE AMPLE FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM ARAAB
SOURCES AND THEY WOULD THEN REFUSE ANY OFFER OF ADDITIONAL ISRAELI
HELP (FOUR COLLEGES ALREADY IN EXISTENCE NOW RECEIVE IL 600,000,00
PER YEAR) OR AMERICN FUNDING.

5. WISE INDICATED CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES IN QUALITY
AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF WEST BANK COLLEGES
ALREADY IN EXISTENCE. SAYS HE MET WITH
GROUP AT LENGTH IN RAMALLAH WHO SIMPLY KEPT " PATTING HIM ON BACK"
AND SAYING THAT THEY THOUGHT HE WANTED TO HEAR.
ON OTHER HAND, HE DESCRIBED SALIM HASHEF, DEAN OF TULKARM
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AS AMERICAN
TRAINED EDUCATOR WHO " TALKS OUR LANGUAGE" AND IS HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE.

6. WISE IS RETURNING NOW TO U. S. AND EXPECTS NO NEW
ACTION REQUIRED ON HIS PART OR BY ISRAELIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.
IF APPROVAL OF JORDAN IS OBTAINED, HE EXPECTS UNIVERSITY TO BE
ORGANIZED AND THAT ISRAELI ROLE, AT LEAST AT BEGINNING, WILL SIMPLY
BE TO ISSUE WHATEVER PERMISSION IS REQUIRED. LATER ON, WHEN
ACADEMIC PLANNING IS ACTUALLY BEGUN, HE HOPES AND EXPECTS THAT
SMALL NUMBER OF ISRAELI AND/ OR AMERICAN EDUCATORS WILL QUIETLY
BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.
ZURHELLEN

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